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image sensing device, wherein the method acquires images independent of spacing between the objects, the method comprising:

- (a) detecting presence of a first object;
 - (b) the image sensing device generating image data corresponding to the first object;
 - (c) the image acquisition device initiating storage of the image data corresponding to the first object in response to said detecting the presence of the first object;
 - (d) detecting absence of the first object after detecting presence of the first object;
 - (e) the image acquisition device discontinuing storage of the image data corresponding to the first object in response to said detecting the absence of the first object.
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REMARKS

Applicant is in receipt of the Office Action mailed December 18, 2002. Claims 1-5, 13-20 and 25 were rejected under §102(e) as being anticipated by Perry et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,903,341). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites as follows:

1. A method for acquiring images of variable sized objects in an image acquisition system, wherein the image acquisition system comprises an image sensing device and an image acquisition device, wherein the objects are moving relative to the image sensing device, wherein the method acquires images independent of spacing between the objects, the method comprising:

- (a) the image acquisition device detecting presence of a first object;
- (b) the image sensing device generating image data corresponding to the first object;
- (c) the image acquisition device initiating storage of the image data corresponding to the first object in response to the image acquisition device detecting the presence of the first object;
- (d) the image acquisition device detecting absence of the first object after detecting presence of the first object;